

CONTACT

REPORT

BRANCH: FOB/S&T

AGENT CRYPTONYM: AEABYSS/1

PROJECT:

AGENT TRUE NAME:

CASE OFFICER ALIAS: []

AGENT OPERATIONAL ALIAS:

CASE OFFICER PSEUDONYM: []

DATE OF REPORT: 15 December 1961

DATE OF MEETING: 11 December 1961

TIME OF MEETING: 1000 HRS TO 2200

PLACE OF MEETING: Salzgitter-Lebenstedt

ALSO PRESENT: AEABYSS/4

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Debrief AEABYSS/1 on his PERIOD COVERED: Sept 60 to Dec 61 experiences in Salavat and travel in the USSR

COMMO: [] per agreement reached on 25 October 1961, called case officer on Ops phone 556903 on 8 December 1961 and notified us of the return of AEABYSS/1. C.O. proceeded to Braunschweig on 10 December and phoned [] on 11 December at 0800 hours at his place of employment, the Linke-Hoffmann-Busch G.m.b.H. in Salzgitter-Watenstedt, Tel. Salzgitter 25411, Ext. 2082. [] picked up c.o. at the Hotel Deutsches Haus in Braunschweig at 0900 (in AEABYSS' private car) and then AEABYSS/1 at the latter's residence in Salzgitter-~~Lebenstedt~~, ~~Salzgerode 54~~, where most of the interview took place. At 1830 we proceeded to a nearby neighborhood restaurant for dinner, remaining there till 2200 hours when [] drove AEABYSS/1 back to his home and c.o. to his hotel.

* at [] RESIDENCE IN LEBENSTEDT, SALZGERODE STR. 54

NEXT MEETING: 2 January 1962 1800 hours at the Gewandt Haus Restaurant in Braunschweig.

SUBSTANCE: See EGFA-36028²¹ Dec. 1961.

AEABYSS/1 was cooperative throughout the lengthy discussion but much time was wasted on generalities and long dissertations by AEABYSS/1 about the drab life in Salavat and the problems he faced there getting the construction job done. [] sat in throughout the discussion. AEABYSS/1 is a rough and outspoken type of individual. He speaks with contempt of the Soviet state, the regimentation of the Soviet people, and the dismal living standards. He talks in a loud voice and when reminiscing about some of his experiences on the construction site and the chicaneries placed in his way, gets all worked up and proposes all sorts of radical ideas as to how the West should go about in its dealing with the Soviet Union. He would not hesitate, for instance, to declare war on the Soviet Union. He regards ~~his~~ accomplishments, except successes in space, as greatly exaggerated and expressed the belief that it would take the Soviet Union at least 100 years to catch up with the West. His movements in the USSR were ~~very~~ restricted. He made two trips to Moscow for talks with TECHMASCHIMPORT but was accompanied on both by a Soviet interpreter whom he regards but as a "spitzel". Twice he travelled to Novokuybishev to discuss company business with his German counterpart in the low pressure polyethylene construction site. Again, he was accompanied by a Soviet interpreter who never left his side. AEABYSS/1 speaks no Russian and uses a Soviet interpreter in all official contact with Soviets. As Chief of German group (about 40 men strong) including the personnel from various subcontractors, he is responsible for their behaviour and passes on to them the many restrictive measures which the Soviets impose upon them. He is also responsible to the Soviet management that these restrictions are adhered to.

AEABYSS/1's knowledge concerning Salavat is almost exclusively restricted to the building site proper. Having had some access and somewhat more freedom of movement within the KOMBINAT 18 in Salavat as the other Germans, he was able to provide a report on the Kombinat 18 covering the physical layout as best he could. He is aware and fully agrees with the West's need to have inside assets in the USSR but was unable to provide information on any Soviets he knows which would lend itself for further exploitation. He knew of no Germans among the collective who - in his opinion - would be able to provide such information. (This subject was not pursued more intensely since Hans STULKEN during his debriefing had already given the names of two Germans who because of their Russian language capability might be in a position to make a useful contribution.)

AEABYSS/1 had no information concerning Soviets travelling to Germany for training in connection with the polyethylene plants being constructed by the Salzgitter firm in Novokuybishev or Salavat. He said the individual responsible for the "Betreuung" (handling) of all Soviets coming to Germany in connection with Salzgitter business would be ANTON DRABENT, residing in Braunschweig Querum, Rohrfeld 12. (The full name and address was obtained on the phone from [] the day following the interview). AEABYSS/1 described Drabent as a politically reliable person and probably willing to cooperate with us.

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AEABYSS/1 credits Drabent with a talent to assess people and also to be courageous enough to start controversial conversation in order to probe for existing soft spots which might lead themselves to further exploitation. We will follow up on the lead. AEABYSS/1 went off again on one of his wild ideas. He proposed we should simply grab one of the Soviets and drop him when we are finished with him!

AEABYSS/1 declared he had no interest to return to the USSR in the immediate future once his construction assignment ~~has~~ been completed. He offered, however, to accept another assignment ^{in the USSR} if we were able to come up with an agent who we would like to get into the USSR. This man, he said, should be well trained and prepared for a long stay in the USSR. He said he would be quite able to arrange with his company for the hiring of such a person provided his documentation would be in order and that he would have some technical ability such as welding and/or pipe laying experience in order to justify his hiring. The agent, he said, should be an American intelligence officer of German extraction speaking perfect German and some Russian who simply re-acquires German citizenship. Only he, AEABYSS/1, would be knowledgeable of the true status of the individual. AEABYSS/1 would take the agent under his wings and assign him among the German collective to a job which would allow the agent a maximum amount of freedom within his cover assignment. AEABYSS/1 feels that only this way could we be reasonably sure that any information of real value could be brought out from the Soviet Union.

AEABYSS/1 expressed surprise that UPHILL had not yet contacted him. He stated emphatically that if they should do so prior to his return to the USSR or at any time after his return he would refuse to cooperate with them.. AEABYSS/1 declared he has no confidence in UPHILL or any other German intelligence organization .

AEABYSS/1 returns to the USSR on 4 January 1962. We will meet with him once more in Braunschweig.

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